

Shadow

COMICS

JANUARY 1949
VOL. 8 NO. 10

10¢





are you sky-hi?



or sky-shy?

Are you content, not knowing what's flying in the air today — or tomorrow? Or do you want to know more about air developments and the people involved in them? See how to build your OWN scale models of our NEWEST planes! Get your copy of AIR TRAILS today!

25c A COPY AT ALL NEWSSTANDS

AIR TRAILS



THE SHADOW KNEW THAT HOLLYWOOD WAS AN ENCHANTED LAND WHERE ANYTHING WAS MORE THAN LIKELY TO HAPPEN...BUT EVEN HE COULDN'T HAVE PREDICTED THE RESULTS OF HIS REFUSING TO STAR IN A PICTURE ABOUT THE EXPLOITS OF..... THE SHADOW....

Powell
FEATURES

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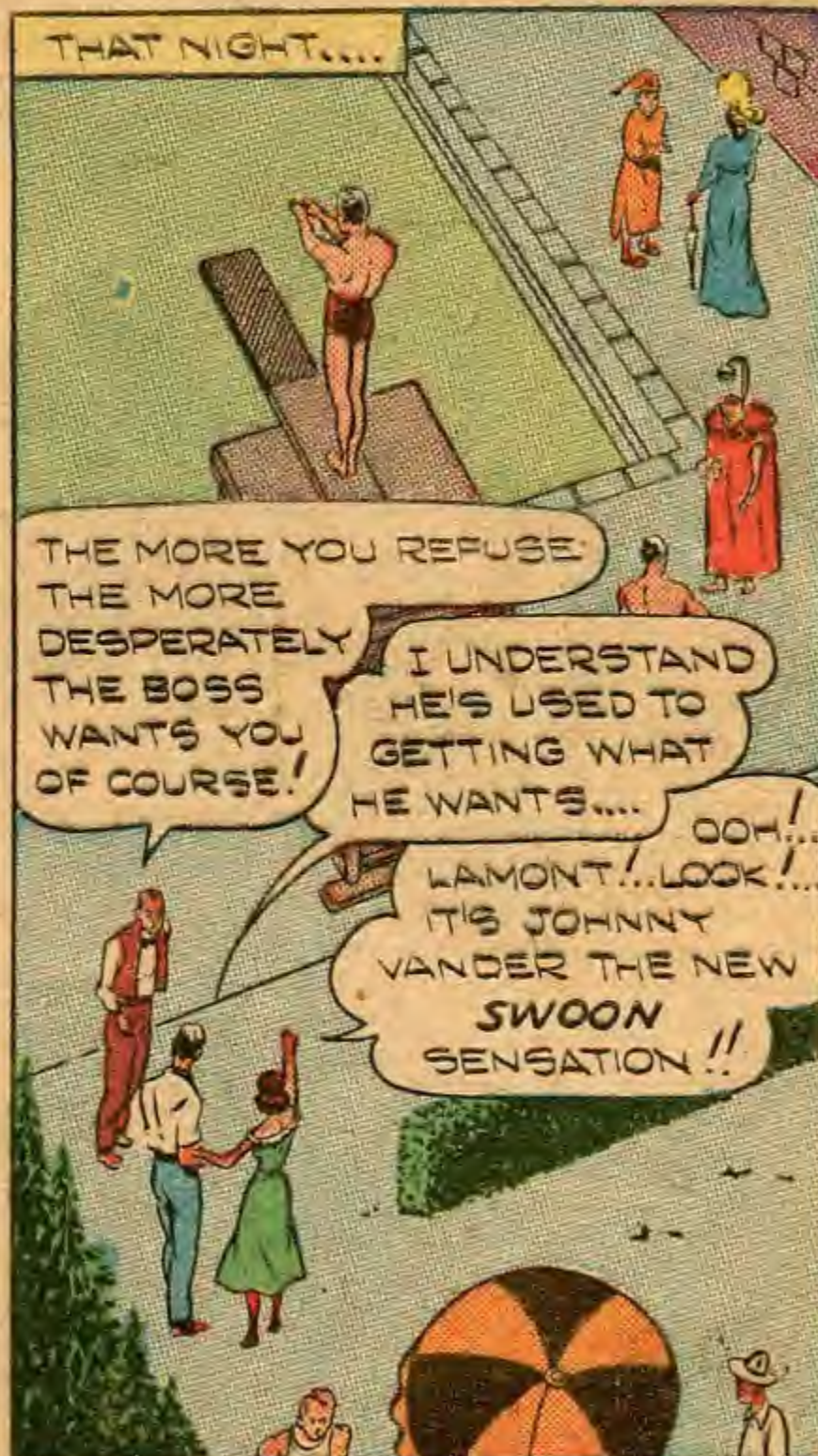


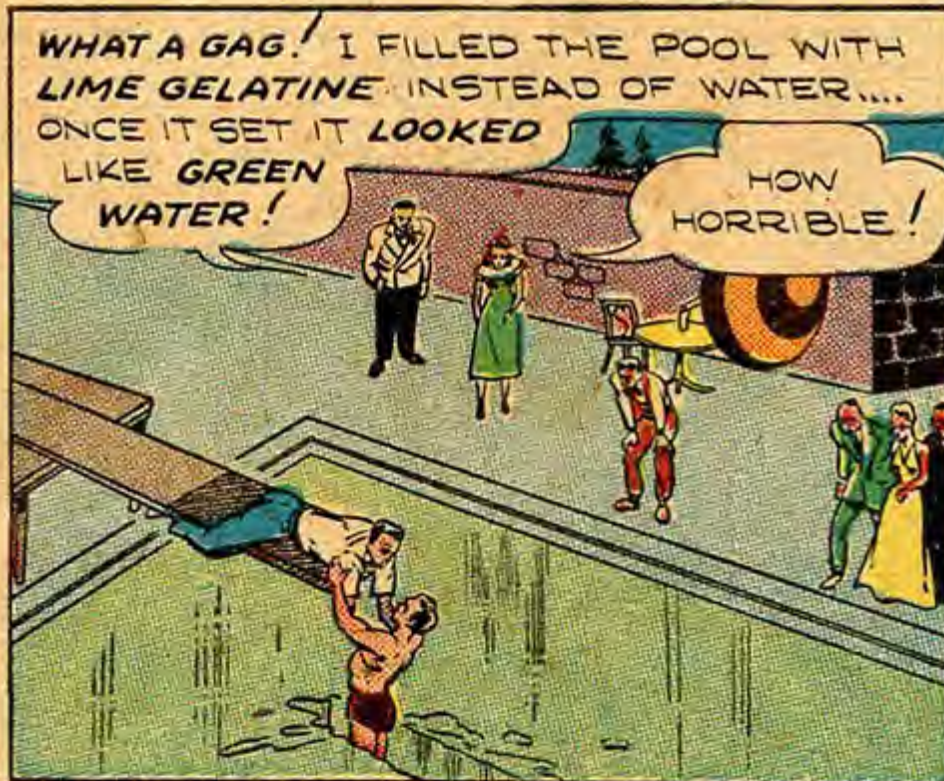
TUNE IN EACH WEEK TO THE OF THE **SHADOW**



THRILLING ADVENTURES

CONSULT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS FOR TIME AND STATION





IT WAS AS IF THEY HAD ENTERED A MAD WORLD....

I SAW IT.... I SAW A **KNIFE** FLASH THROUGH THE AIR... **HE'S DEAD !!**



THIS FANTASTIC **UPSIDE-DOWN** ROOM IS MR. SILVERWYNN'S LAST JOKE I'M AFRAID!

HE'S DEAD?



I SAW THE KNIFE... BUT IT CAME FROM NOWHERE !! NO ONE USED IT.... **NOBODY AT ALL !!**

VERY! MARGO, SEE IF YOU CAN GET HER OVER HER HYSTERICS SO WE CAN GET A REPORT OF WHAT HAPPENED.



IF IT WERE A THROWING KNIFE I COULD UNDERSTAND WHY SHE DIDN'T SEE WHO THREW IT.... BUT IT'S A BREAD KNIFE.... NO ONE CAN THROW ONE OF THEM **ACCURATELY!!**

WHAT'S GOING ON?... IS HE... HE DEAD?



AND THE BUTLER JUST TOLD ME THAT HE CAUGHT **JOHNNY VANDER** LEAVING THE KITCHEN WITH A **BREAD KNIFE!** I'LL GET THE COPS!

YOU CALL THEM, I WANT TO LOOK AROUND!!





OOOH!...
WHAT....?



WHO...WHO ARE
YOU?? WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?



HERE!!
STOP!!



IT'S GONE! AND IT'S
CARRIED AWAY,
THE WOMAN!



I COULDN'T EVEN FIND
WHAT MADE THE
TRAP DOOR
WORK!!

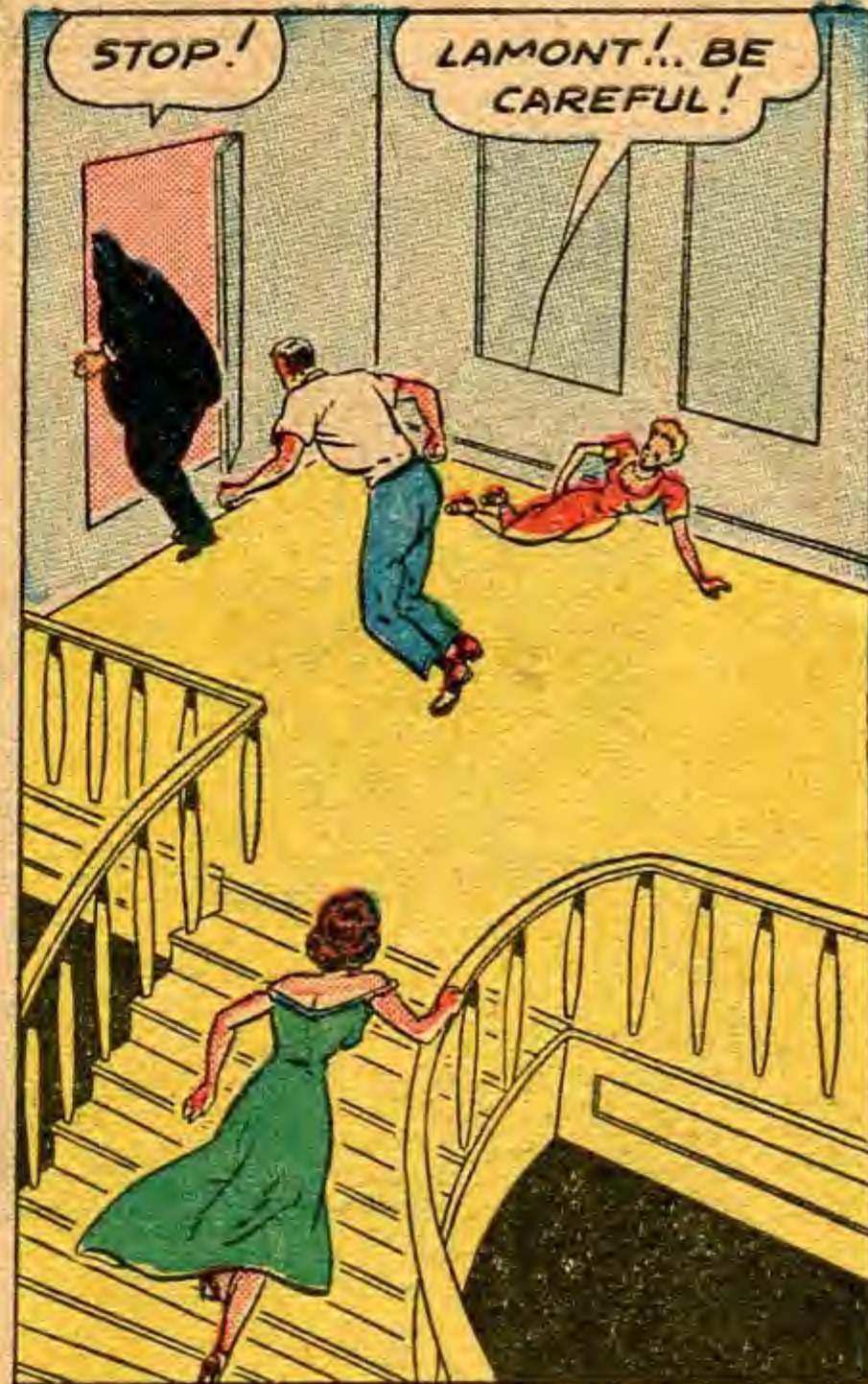
IT'S ALL RIGHT! DON'T
BE UPSET! THE
WOMAN IS ALL RIGHT!
I CAN PROMISE
YOU!



HOW CAN YOU KNOW THAT?
WHO CARRIED THE
WOMAN AWAY?



MOST OF IT IS **QUITE CLEAR** RIGHT
NOW! **LOOK!...** SILVERWYNN INVITED
ME HERE TONIGHT.....





IF ONLY I KNEW
WHERE THIS
LED TO....



THIS WILL BE LIKE **SHOOTING
CLAY PIGEONS....** AS SOON
AS HE COMES OUT OF
THE PANEL !!

BUT...BY EXTENDING
HIS ARMS AND LEGS
CRANSTON HAS
BRAKED HIMSELF
JUST INSIDE THE
PANEL.....

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT
I HAD BETTER
CHANGE AT THIS
POINT !!



SO...AS THE PANEL
OPENS...THE BLACK
CLAD FIGURE SEES...
NOTHING....

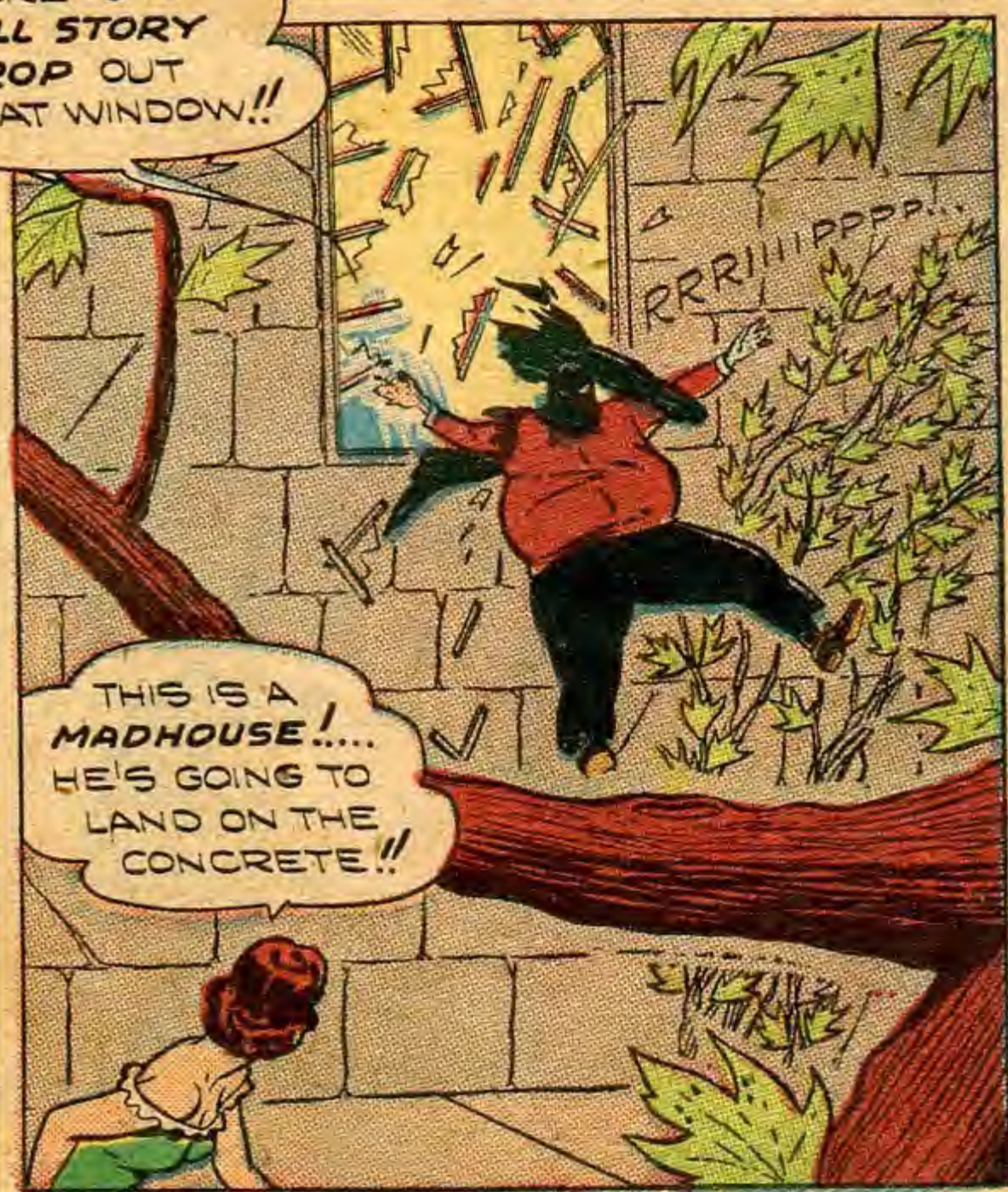


THE
PANEL OPENED...
BUT HE **HASN'T**
COME OUT OF IT...
HE MUST
STILL BE IN
THERE!!

HEY!...YOU!..IN THERE....
THERE'S NO OTHER
WAY OUT.!

HOW
DISAPPOINTED
**YOU'RE GOING
TO BE.!**









NOW, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

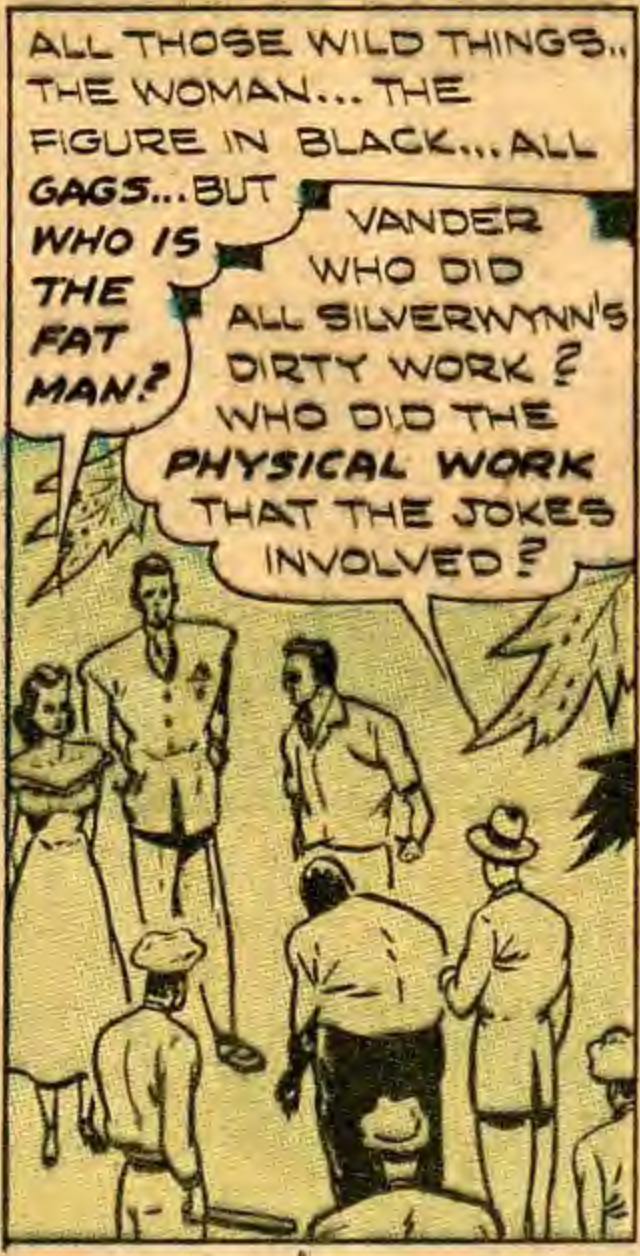
VANDER YOU PUNCHED SILVERWYNN AS PART OF A GAG, DIDN'T YOU?



SURE! THAT WAS PART OF THE SET UP!

I WAS SUPPOSED TO PICK YOU FOR THE MURDERER AFTER SILVERWYNN'S DUMMY WAS FOUND IN THE UPSIDE DOWN ROOM, WITH THE KNIFE IN IT!!

YES...YOU SPOTTED IT ALL-RIGHT... BUT WHAT'S WRONG? WHO'S THE FAT GUY? THE FAT HE WASN'T A MAN ADDED IN ON THE THE NEW GAG... THE ELEMENT! HE KNEW THE WOMAN WAS TO SAY THAT THE KNIFE CAME FROM NOWHERE! SHE WASN'T EVEN IN THE ROOM AS THE FAT MAN KNEW! SO...HATING SILVERWYNN, HE GOT EVEN... KILLED HIM...AND THEN HAD THE BAD LUCK TO RUN INTO SHREVVIE WHEN HE TRIED TO GET RID OF THE DUMMY! HE KNEW EVERYONE WOULD PLAY THEIR PARTS STILL THINKING IT WAS ALL A JOKE!



ALL THOSE WILD THINGS... THE WOMAN... THE FIGURE IN BLACK... ALL GAGS... BUT WHO IS THE FAT MAN? VANDER WHO DID ALL SILVERWYNN'S DIRTY WORK? WHO DID THE PHYSICAL WORK THAT THE JOKES INVOLVED?



WHY...BETTER DID ALL THAT... BUT... GULP!! IT IS BETTER!

SURE!... WEARING AN INFLATED SUIT TO DIS-GUISE HIM.... THAT'S WHY HE BOUNCED WHEN HE LANDED!



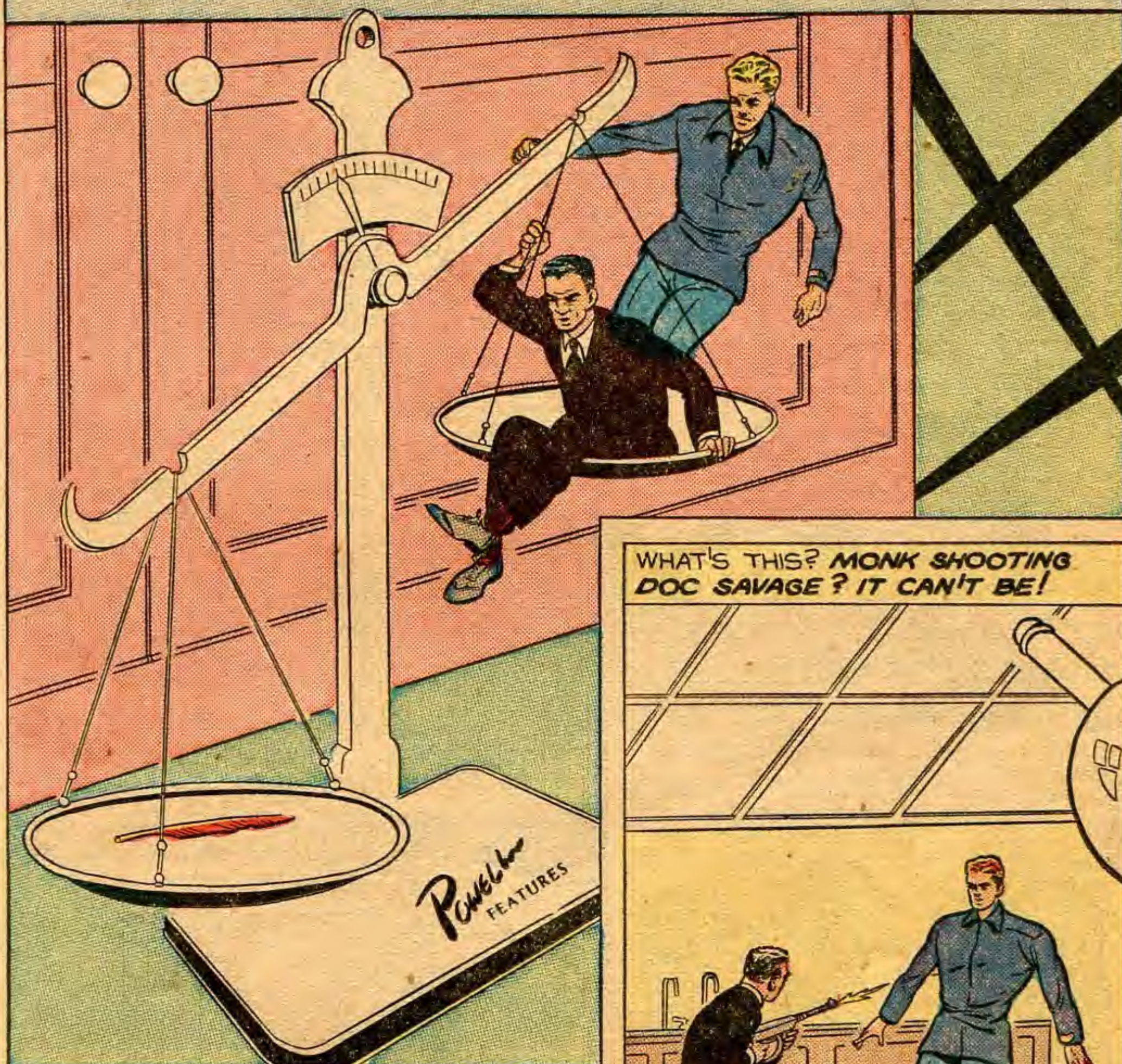
TWO DAYS LATER...

WELL... SAY GOODBYE TO HOLLYWOOD, MARGO... IT'S THE LAST TIME YOU'LL SEE IT FOR AWHILE!

AFTER THIS EXPERIENCE BOYFRIEND, IT'S THE LAST TIME I'LL SEE IT.... PERIOD!

DOC SAVAGE

THE CASE OF THE HEAVY FEATHER



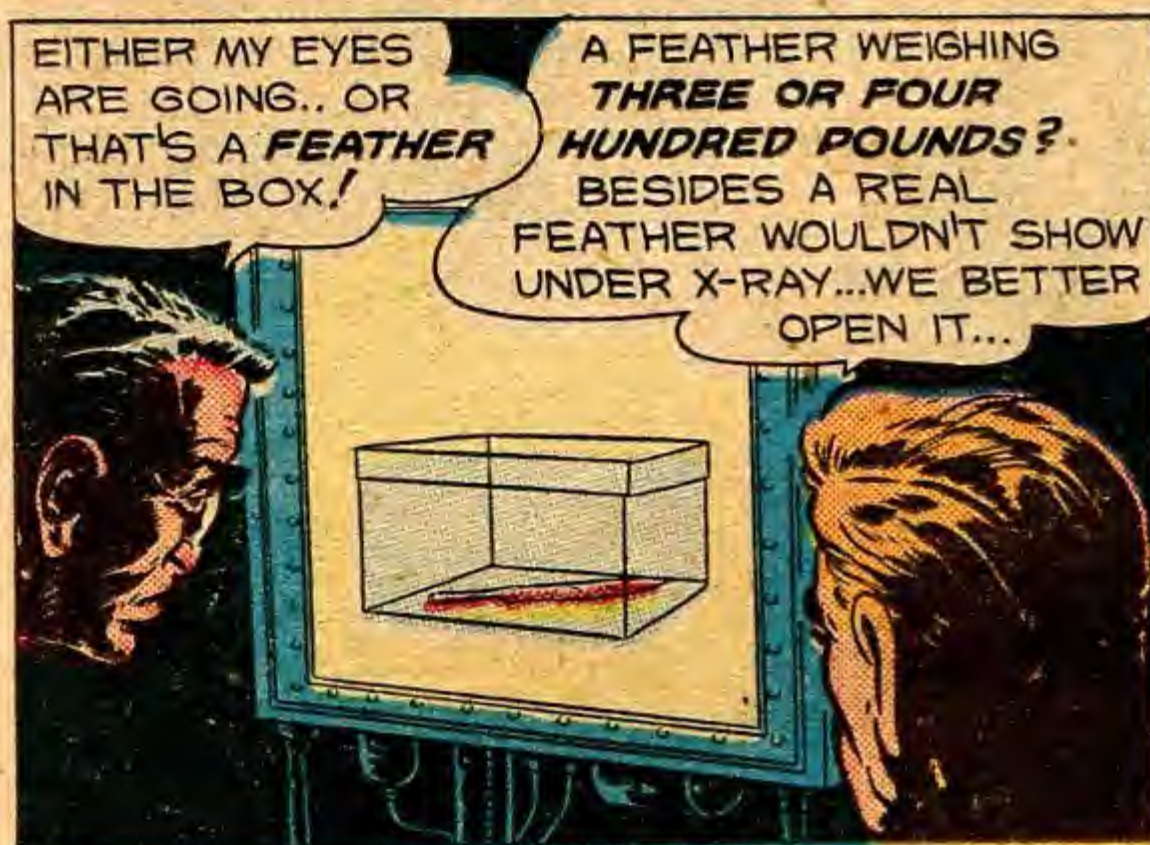
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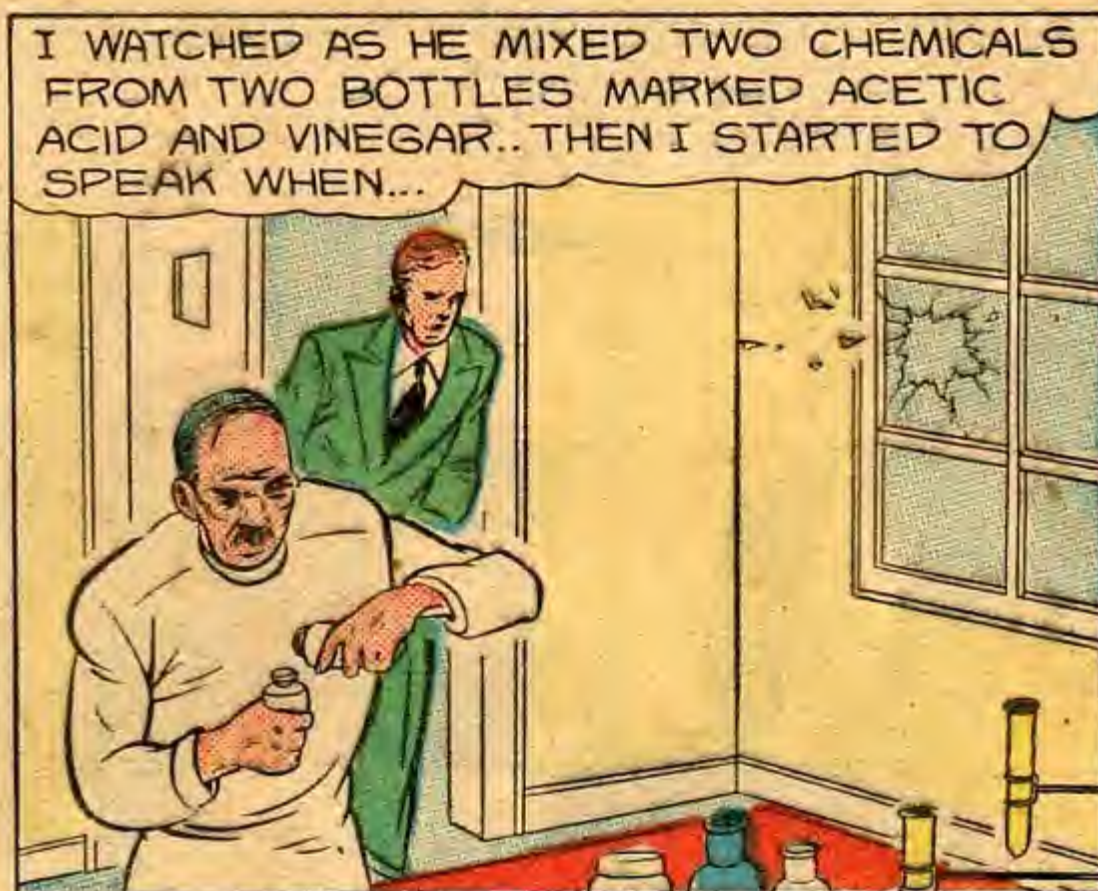
ICE...OF COURSE, IT WAS ICE.. EXCEPT IT DIDN'T **FEEL COLD**.. AND TO MAKE IT MELT YOU HAD TO HEAT IT TO **400 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT!** AND THEN THERE WAS THE **FEATHER**, AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE, EXCEPT IT WEIGHED **FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS!** ADD THESE FACTORS TOGETHER AND WHAT DO YOU GET? TROUBLE A LA **DOC SAVAGE!**

WHAT'S THIS? **MONK SHOOTING DOC SAVAGE?** IT CAN'T BE!









ONE THING CLEAR! THIS FEATHER HAS BEEN MADE UNDER **TERRIFIC PRES-SURE**.. LET'S GO TO THE LAB AND SEE WHAT APPARATUS THE DOCTOR WAS USING!.



HMM! ICE THAT DOESN'T **MELT**! I SEE!



A **HEAVY FEATHER** AND **ICE THAT DOESN'T MELT** AND HE SAYS I SEE! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT!

LATER

VINCENT! YOU GOT **DOC SAVAGE**!

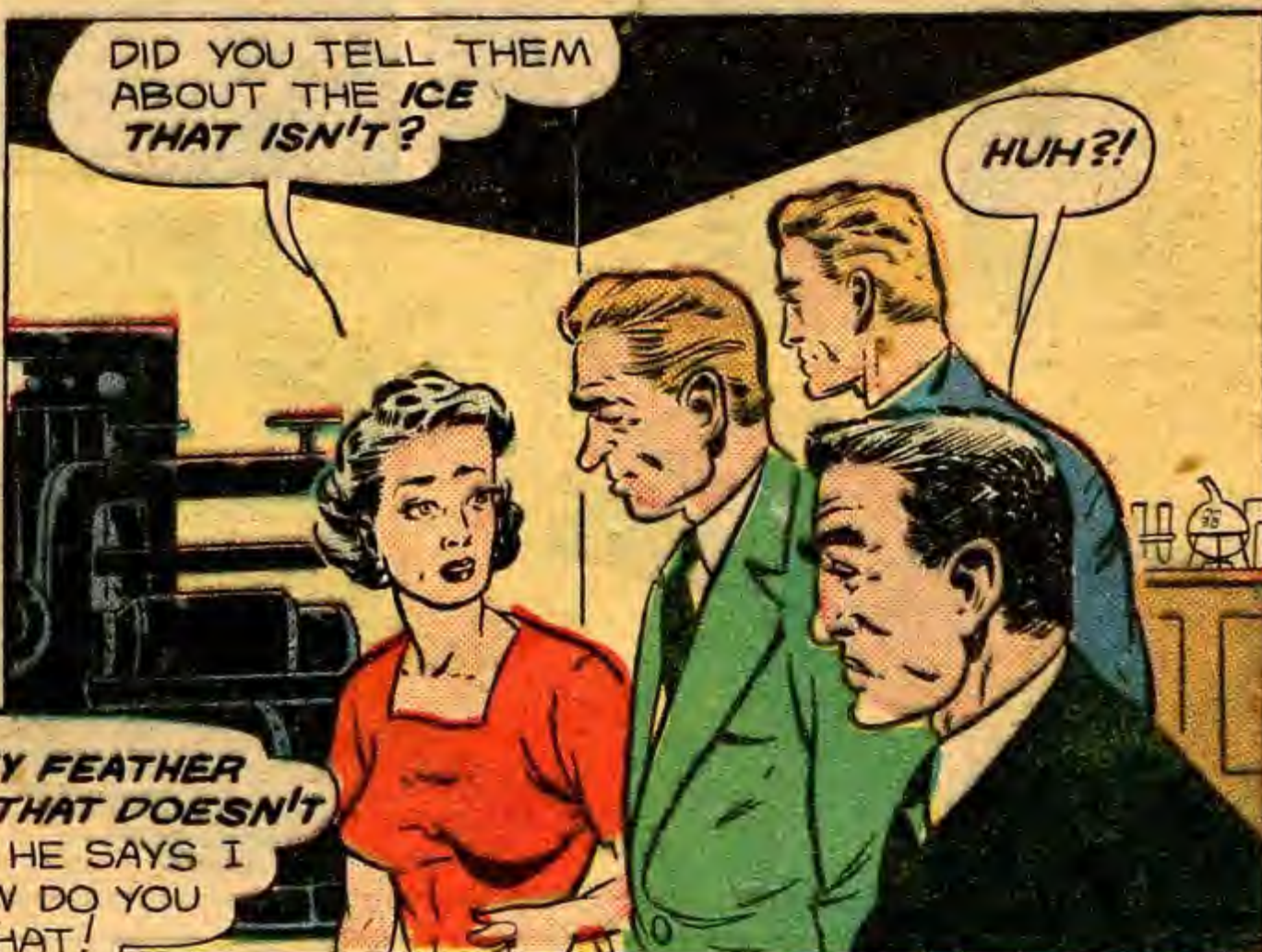
MISS FARREN, DOC SAVAGE AND...

JUST CALL ME MONK...



DID YOU TELL THEM ABOUT THE **ICE THAT ISN'T**?

HUH?!



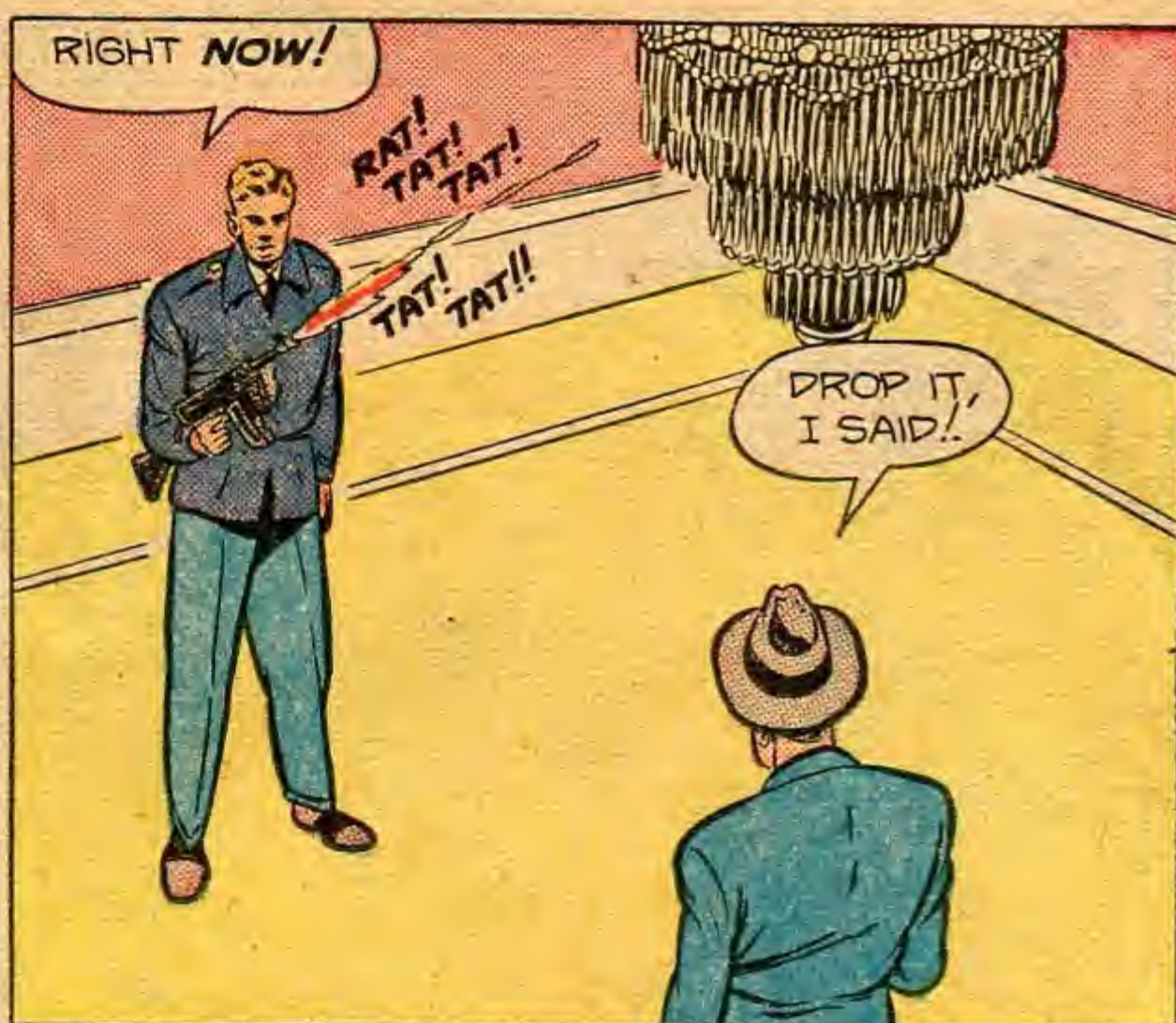
MISS FARREN, IT'S QUITE CLEAR WHAT YOUR FATHER WAS EXPERIMENTING WITH... THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE SOLUTION AND THAT IS **PRESSURE**... THESE **PRESSURES** TELL THE WHOLE STORY!

DOC!
LOOK OUT!













WHERE IS SHE? I GOT **CLOUTED** AGAIN!
SHE'S BEEN **KIDNAPPED!**

C'MON, DOC!
DON'T STAND
THERE..



THE GAME'S OVER! SUPPOSE YOU TELL
US WHAT YOU'VE HAD YOUR THUGS DO
WITH HER?

DOC! YOU
GONE **NUTS?**

BUT...DOC...HE SAW THE
GIRL'S FATHER GET KILLED..

NONSENSE! HE EITHER **HAD** HIM
KILLED OR **DID IT HIMSELF!**



VINCE! I GOT AWAY FROM
THOSE MEN... THE
POLICEMEN CAUGHT THEM!

ONCE HE KILLED
DR. FARREN HE
FOUND OUT HE
COULDN'T DOPE
OUT HIS SECRET
HE HAD THE FEATHER
SENT TO ME HOPING
I'D EXPLAIN IT..



WHEN YOU EXPLAINED IT WAS
DONE BY HYDRAULIC PRES-
SURE HE TRIED TO HAVE US
KILLED. **NICE KID!** BUT HOW
DID **YOU** KNOW?

TWO
THINGS. THE GUNMEN
AIMED AT OUR HEADS!
THAT MEANT THEY
KNEW WE WERE
**WEARING BULLET
PROOF VESTS!!**



I GET IT! WHEN THE
FEATHER WAS DELIV-
ERED HE WAITED OUT-
SIDE FOR A WHILE
EAVESDROPPING.. WHAT'S
THE OTHER THING?

THAT STORY HE
TOLD.. IT WAS A LIE!
HE SAID DR. FARREN
WAS MIXING ACETIC
ACID AND VINEGAR
WHEN HE WAS SHOT.
THAT'S ABSURD!
THEY'RE THE **SAME
THING!**



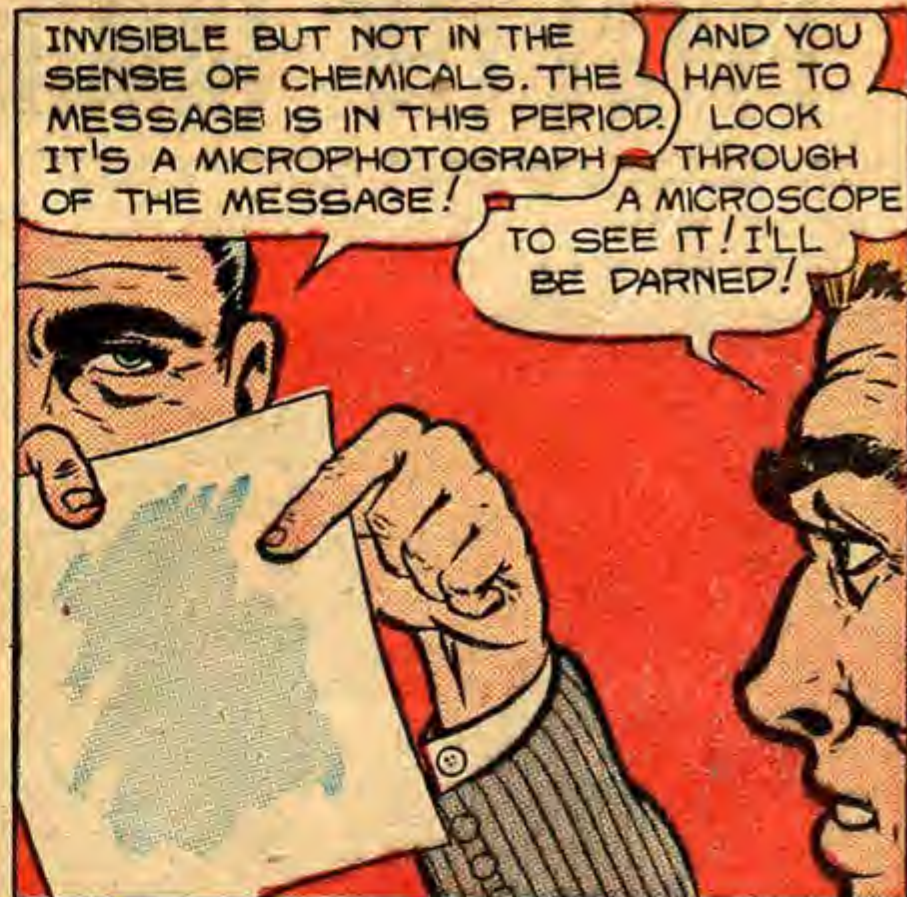
FROM THE SHADOW'S CRIME FILE





HERE'S AN ODDITY. IT WAS CAPTURED FROM THE GERMANS. IT HAS NO SECRET WRITING, NO CRYPTOGRAM AND YET IT HAS A MESSAGE ON IT.

INVISIBLE WRITING?



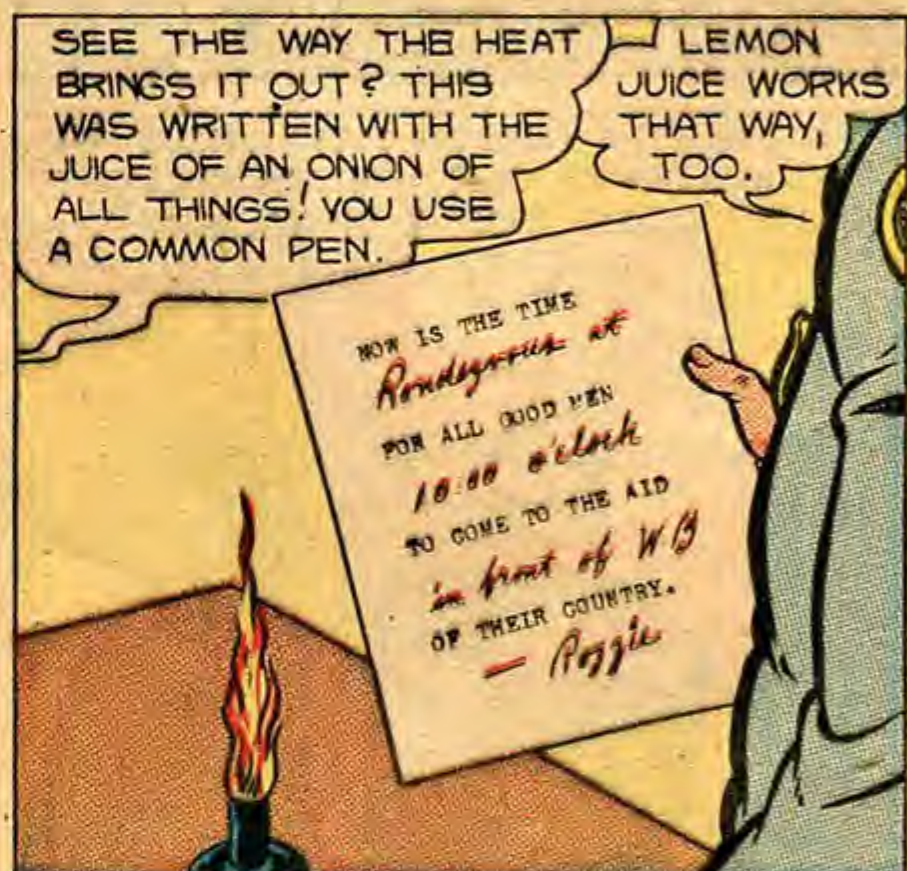
INVISIBLE BUT NOT IN THE SENSE OF CHEMICALS. THE MESSAGE IS IN THIS PERIOD. IT'S A MICROPHOTOGRAPH OF THE MESSAGE!

AND YOU HAVE TO LOOK THROUGH A MICROSCOPE TO SEE IT! I'LL BE DARNED!



HERE'S A MORE COMMON KIND OF INVISIBLE WRITING. KNOW WHAT IT'S WRITTEN WITH?

I KNOW THERE'S LOTS OF CHEMICALS YOU CAN USE.



SEE THE WAY THE HEAT BRINGS IT OUT? THIS WAS WRITTEN WITH THE JUICE OF AN ONION OF ALL THINGS! YOU USE A COMMON PEN.

LEMON JUICE WORKS THAT WAY, TOO.

NOW IS THE TIME
Rendezvous at
FOR ALL GOOD MEN
10:00 o'clock
TO COME TO THE AID
in front of W.B.
OF THEIR COUNTRY.
— *Peggie*



SPEAKING OF APPEARING INKS, CAN YOU THINK OF A USE FOR DISAPPEARING INK AND APPEARING INK?

NOT OFF HAND, WHAT IS IT?



SUPPOSE I WAS YOUR SECRETARY AND I MADE OUT A CHECK TO MYSELF IN DISAPPEARING INK FOR TEN DOLLARS... BUT IN APPEARING INK I MADE IT FOR ONE THOUSAND...

WOW! I'D SIGN THE TEN DOLLAR ONE... THAT WOULD VANISH AND YOU'D CASH IT FOR A GRAND! I SEE!

IN THE PALATIAL LONG
ISLAND MANSION OF EX-
PUBLISHER HIRAM MORGAN,
A CABLEGRAM ARRIVES
FROM EUROPE....

LOOK LORNA....IT WORKED!!
GLENDA IS COMING BACK
FROM EUROPE...
HER PLANE
ARRIVES
TODAY!



OF COURSE,
HIRAM....EVEN
SHE ISN'T STUPID
ENOUGH TO LET
YOU WILL HER OUT
OF A MILLION
DOLLARS!

LORNA...HOW CAN YOU
TALK LIKE THAT.? SHE'S
MY DAUGHTER.....IT'S
HER RIGHT TO INHERIT
MY FORTUNE! YOU'LL
BE WELL PROVIDED
FOR!

YOU
BET I
WILL! HERE
DRINK YOUR
MEDICINE!



NICK CARTER

IN THE

MIDNIGHT HEIRESS



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DEATH... A MILLION DOLLARS...
A DESPERATE WOMAN....
AND A RUNAWAY GIRL
RACING THE HANDS OF THE
CLOCK IN THIS GRIPPING
MYSTERY THAT TESTED
NICK CARTER'S INGENUITY IN
MORE WAYS THAN ONE....



YES VERY
WELL PROVIDED
FOR!!

A FEW MINUTES LATER IN THE OFFICE OF PHILLIP BRUN, HIRAM MORGAN'S ATTORNEY AND EXECUTOR OF HIS ESTATE....

...AND THE HEART ATTACK WAS FATAL, EH?... YES.... YES.... THE NEW WILL IN YOUR FAVOR IS SAFE AND SOUND.... I KNOW SHE'S ARRIVING FROM EUROPE, TODAY.... CERTAINLY, SHE'LL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF!



..... ALL I KNOW IS.... CARTER'S SECRETARY IS WITH HER!... HUH?... OKAY.... BOTH OF 'EM, HUH?... RIGHT!... NO.... NO ROUGH STUFF.... I'LL BE CAREFUL... S'LONG!



ALMOST AT THIS MOMENT AT THE AIRPORT, THE AIR-FRANCE PLANE FROM PARIS ARRIVES.... AMONG IT'S PASSENGER'S IS GLENDA MORGAN....

PATSY!... HELLO!...

HI, GLENDA.... I GOT YOUR CABLE AND *JUST* GOT OUT HERE IN TIME TO MEET YOU!

WHO IS THE DAME WITH GLENDA?

NICK CARTER'S SECRETARY!... HEY.... YOU BETTER CALL THE BOSS AND FIND OUT WHAT'S UP!



COME IN, LADIES.... I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!



WHO ARE YOU?... WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

RELAX.... YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE MY "GUEST" UNTIL MIDNIGHT.... BE GOOD AND NOTHING WILL HAPPEN!!



A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER...

THE PLANE ARRIVED AN HOUR AGO... AND GLENDA'S CABLE ASKS PATSY TO MEET HER SO SHE COULD SEE ME RIGHT AWAY... THE LINE AT THE MORGAN MANSION IS BUSY EVERY SECOND AND MORGAN'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DOESN'T ANSWER... SOMETHING'S GOING ON AND I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT!



GET YOUR PAPER!... READ ABOUT THE LIFE OF AMERICA'S GRRREEAAT PUBLISHER... HIRAM MORGAN... PAPPAAHHH!...

HMMM! THINGS BEGIN TO MAKE SENSE! GUESS BRUN, THE EXECUTOR OF THE MORGAN ESTATE IS OUT THERE...



NICK ARRIVES AT BRUN'S OFFICE...

DARK... JUST AS I FIGURED!... WELL... WHILE THE MOUSE IS AWAY, NICK'S GOING TO "PLAY"...

THIS SHOULD DO IT...



AN HOUR LATER NICK ARRIVES ON LONG ISLAND...

CARTER!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

TO REMIND MR BRUN, HE HAS A MILLION DOLLAR RENDEZVOUS AT MIDNIGHT!...









MEANWHILE AT A SMALL SUMMER HOUSE ON A SMALL ISLAND OFF THE COAST... NOT FAR FROM THE MORGAN MANSION....

THEY KILLED FATHER FOR THE **INHERITANCE**... AND IT'S **MY FAULT** BECAUSE I DECIDED TO COME HOME!

NOW!... NOW!... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

YEAH!

I'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH 'EM WHEN THEY TRY TO LAND.. DON'T WORRY!



D'YA LIKE **FISH**, MISS PATSY?

OKAY... FOR THE \$64 DOLLAR ANSWER.... I LIKE FISH... SO?

SO THEY'RE GONNA BE **WELL FED** TONIGHT... WE'RE FEEDIN' YOUR **BOSS**, **NICK CARTER** TO 'EM



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

HAVEN'T YOU EVER BEEN TO A **MYSTERY PICTURE**? WE DO WHAT ALL HEROINES DO... **TRY TO GET FREE!**



MEANWHILE... NICK HIRES A BOAT....

TIDES GOIN' OUT, BETTER BE CAREFUL! IF A STORM COMES UP YOU'RE GONNA BE SWEEPED OUT TO SEA...

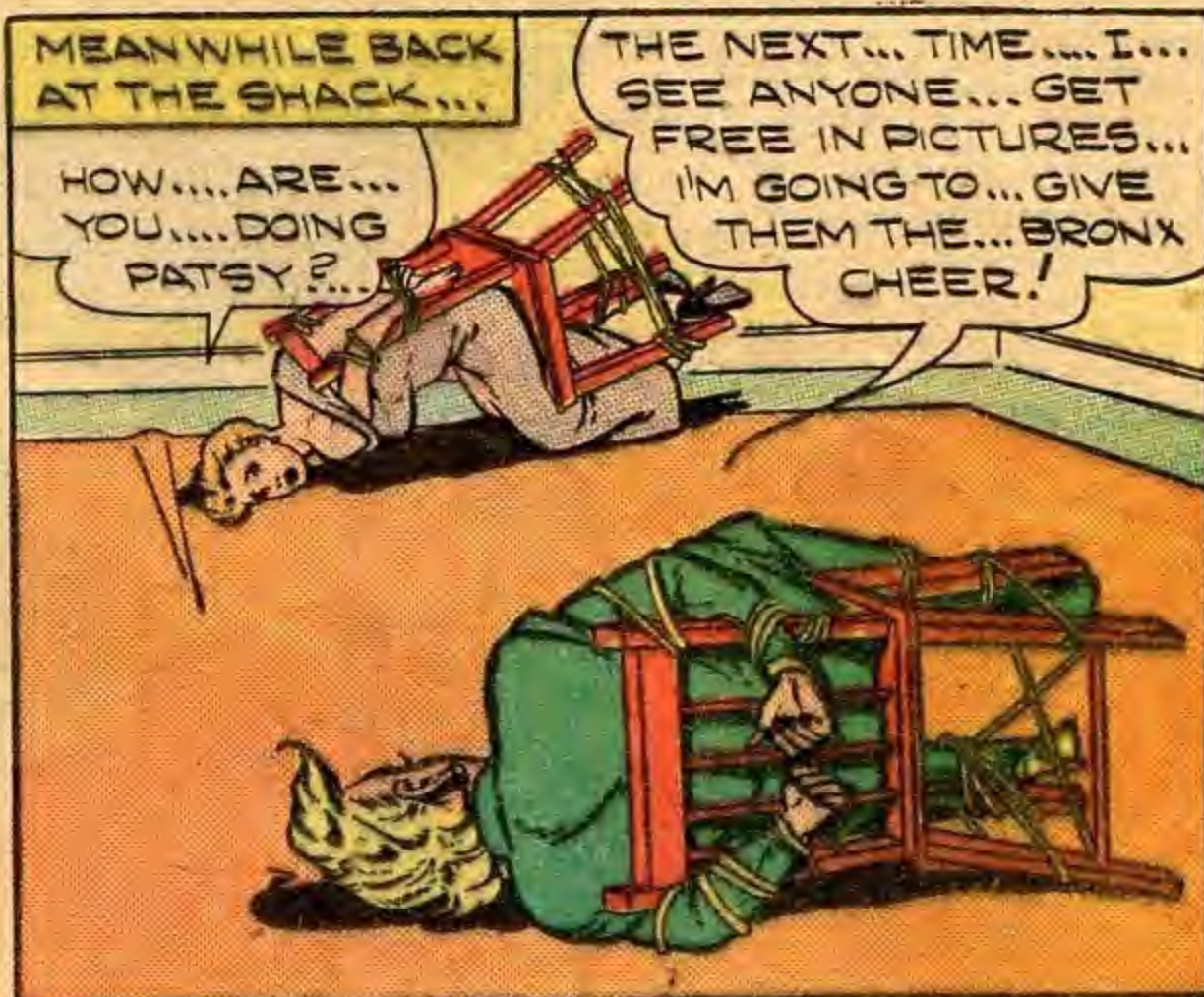
THANK'S... BUT WE'VE GOT TO CHANCE IT!!

CARTER! LISTEN! I'LL GIVE GLENDA THE **INHERITANCE**, ANYTHING... ONLY TAKE ME BACK.... I'M **SCARED!** PLEASE!!



I DON'T TRUST YOU, BRUN... WE'RE HEADING FOR THE ISLAND!!





AND WHILE THE GIRLS STRUGGLE WITH THEIR ROPES, NICK STRUGGLES WITH BRUN...





WELL... JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES AND GLENDA BECOMES AN EX "POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL"!

THE TIME'S NOT UP YET... NICK WILL GET HERE!



SUDDENLY....

THE LIGHTS... WHAT??!! OOMPH!

HEY ???... ARRGH!



GREETINGS! MISS GLENDA MORGAN... I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A MIDNIGHT DATE WITH THIS WATER-SOAKED RAT IN THE DOORWAY!

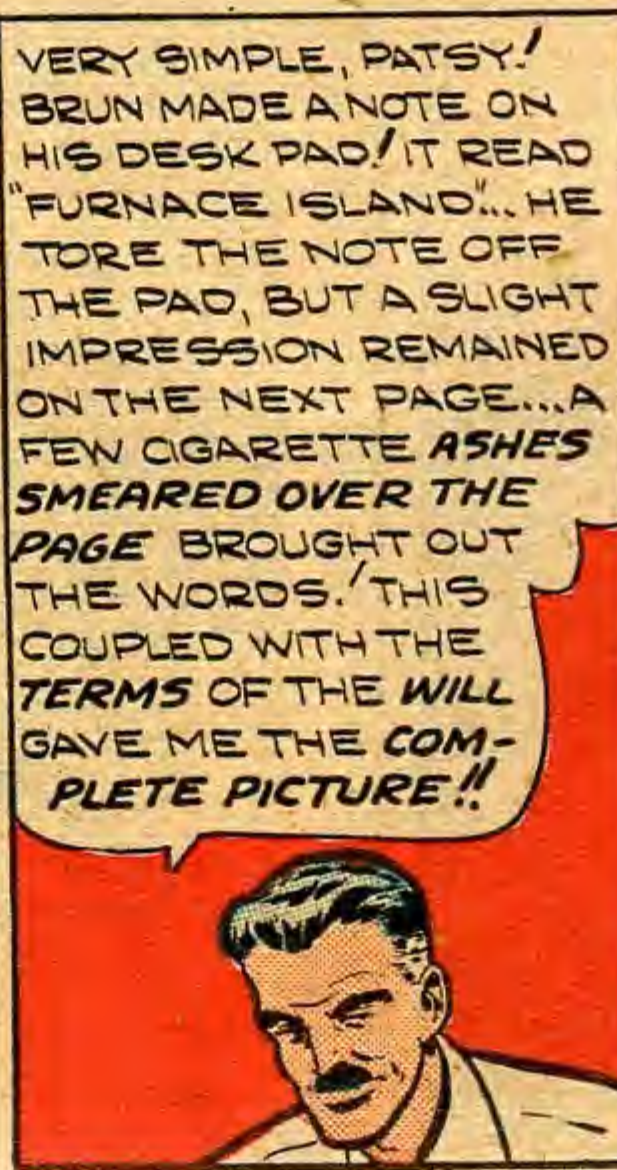
THROUGH NO CHOICE OF MY OWN, I ASSURE YOU!... UGH!

YOU'VE GONE TO A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR NOTHING, CARTER.... WITHOUT THE **LEGAL PAPERS**, THIS MEETING MEANS NOTHING!

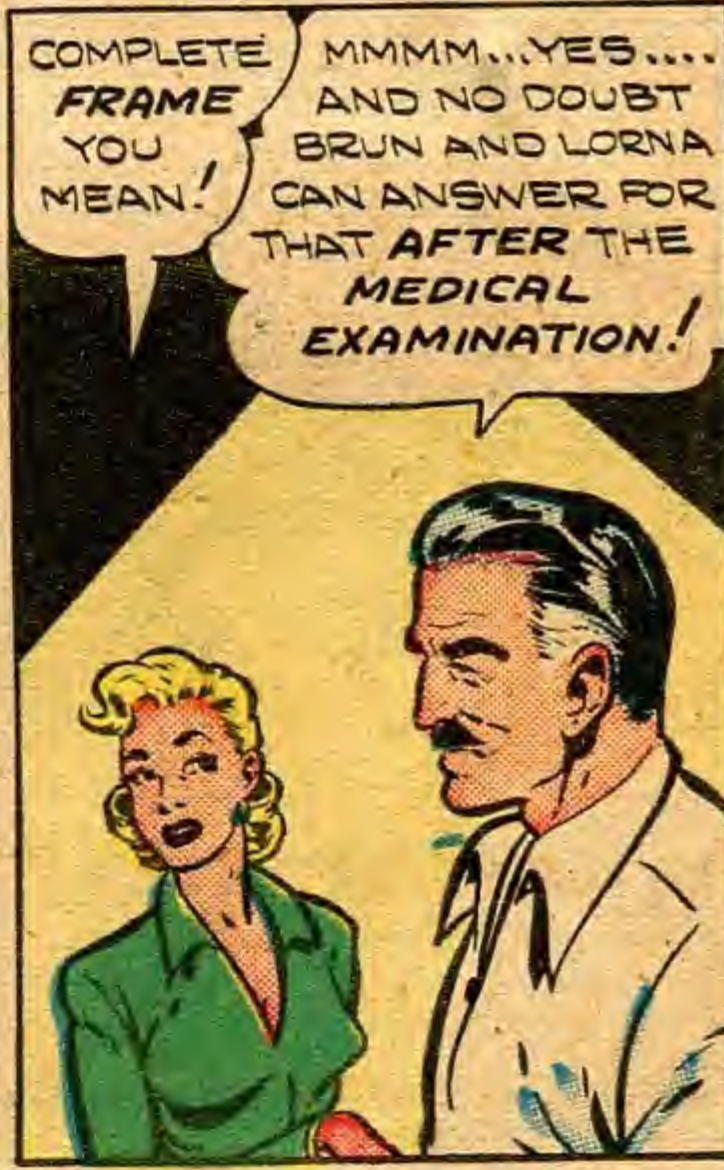


I WAS WELL AWARE OF THAT, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF VISITING YOUR OFFICE AND... SHALL WE SAY **BORROWING** THEM FROM YOUR FILES!

YOU'RE WONDERFUL!... BUT HOW DID YOU FIND US?



VERY SIMPLE, PATSY! BRUN MADE A NOTE ON HIS DESK PAD! IT READ "FURNACE ISLAND"... HE TORE THE NOTE OFF THE PAD, BUT A SLIGHT IMPRESSION REMAINED ON THE NEXT PAGE... A FEW CIGARETTE **ASHES SMEARED OVER THE PAGE** BROUGHT OUT THE WORDS. THIS COUPLED WITH THE **TERMS OF THE WILL** GAVE ME THE **COMPLETE PICTURE!!**



COMPLETE **FRAME** YOU MEAN!

MMMM... YES.... AND NO DOUBT BRUN AND LORNA CAN ANSWER FOR THAT **AFTER THE MEDICAL EXAMINATION!**

THE SHADOW
SOLVES
THE

RIDDLE OF DESERT CITY



HERE LIES DESERT CITY.... HOME OF A NOTORIOUS GAMBLING PALACE WHICH UNFORTUNATELY IS LEGALIZED IN THE STATE WHERE IT IS LOCATED..... THE VICE OF EASY MONEY ALWAYS ATTRACTS CRIME AND THEREFORE DESERT CITY HAS BEEN PILLAGED BY CRIMINALS.. TO PUT A STOP TO CRIME, THE SHADOW, MASTER CRIME HUNTER, IS ARRIVING BY HELICOPTER TO TAKE CONTROL....

THERE IS ONE WHO KNOWS
THE EVIL THAT LURKS IN
THE HEARTS OF MEN...
- THE SHADOW

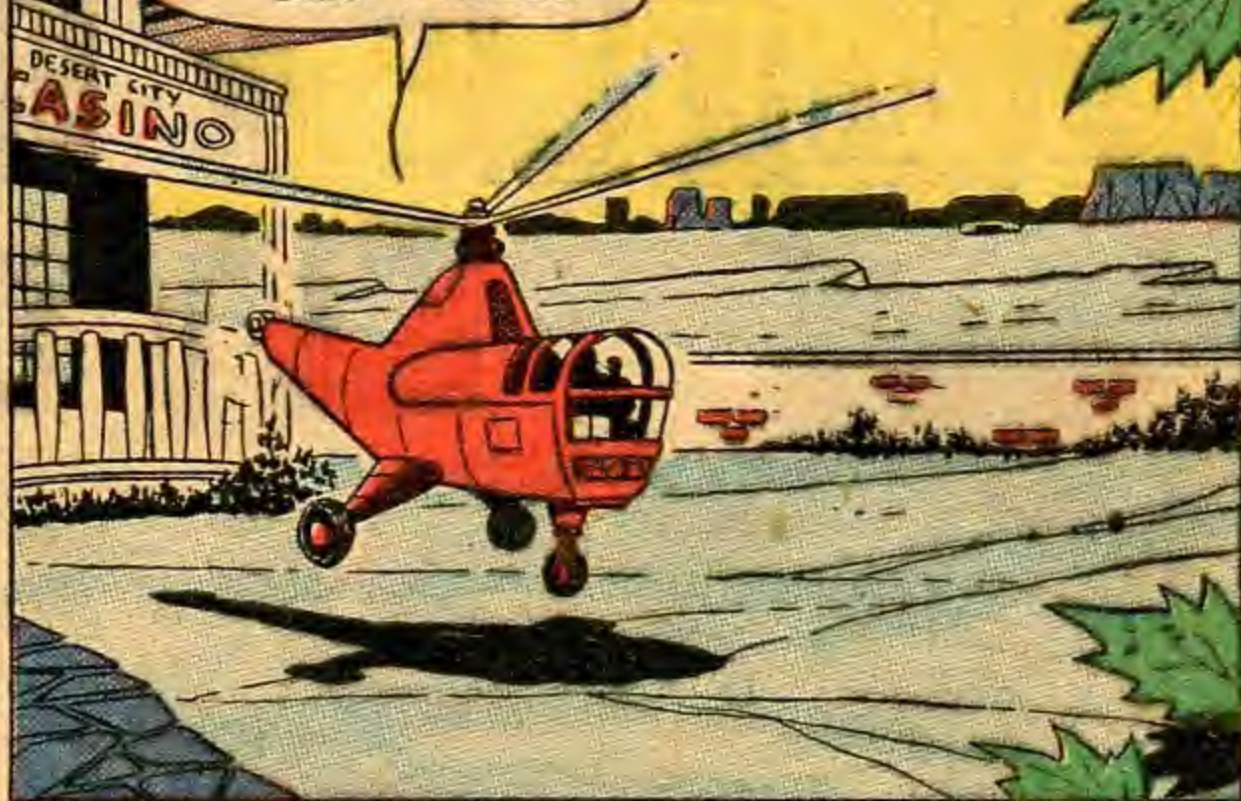
YOU WERE RIGHT, LAMONT!
DESERT CITY IS AN ISOLATED
PLACE, WITHOUT
EVEN AN
AIRPORT!

IT USED TO
HAVE ONE
MARGOT....



THIS NEW CAUSEWAY IS THE
ONLY ROUTE TO DESERT
CITY AND YOU CAN SEE
THAT THE POLICE HAVE
TAKEN A GUARD
OVER IT!

..... AND YOU CAN STILL SEE THE
ABANDONED HANGER OFF BEYOND
THE DESERT, BUT THE **SAND**
COMPLETELY BURIED THE
OLD ROAD THAT
LED THERE!



YET CROOKS HAVE INVADED DESERT
CITY AND **DISAPPEARED** WITH
THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!!
I WONDER
HOW?



I HAVE AN IDEA,
LAMONT! MAYBE
THEY CAME BY
HELICOPTER,
LIKE WE
DID!

NOT A
CHANCE,
MARGOT!



BECAUSE NOT ONLY DO
THEY STRIKE AFTER
DARK, THEY HAVE
ALWAYS COME WHEN
A **WINDSTORM** WAS
SWEEPING THE
DESERT!

AND NOBODY COULD
DRIVE A CAR ACROSS
THAT DESERT! THIS
IS **REALLY CRIME**
WITHOUT A
TRACE!!







MEANWHILE, DOWN IN THE GAMBLING ROOM.....

HANDS UP! AND STAY BACK FROM THAT CASH!

DON'T RESIST THEM, ANYONE! LIVES ARE MORE PRECIOUS THAN MONEY!

THIS CALLS FOR A QUICK SWITCH...



...TO MY OTHER SELF, THE SHADOW!



HEY!... WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE!?



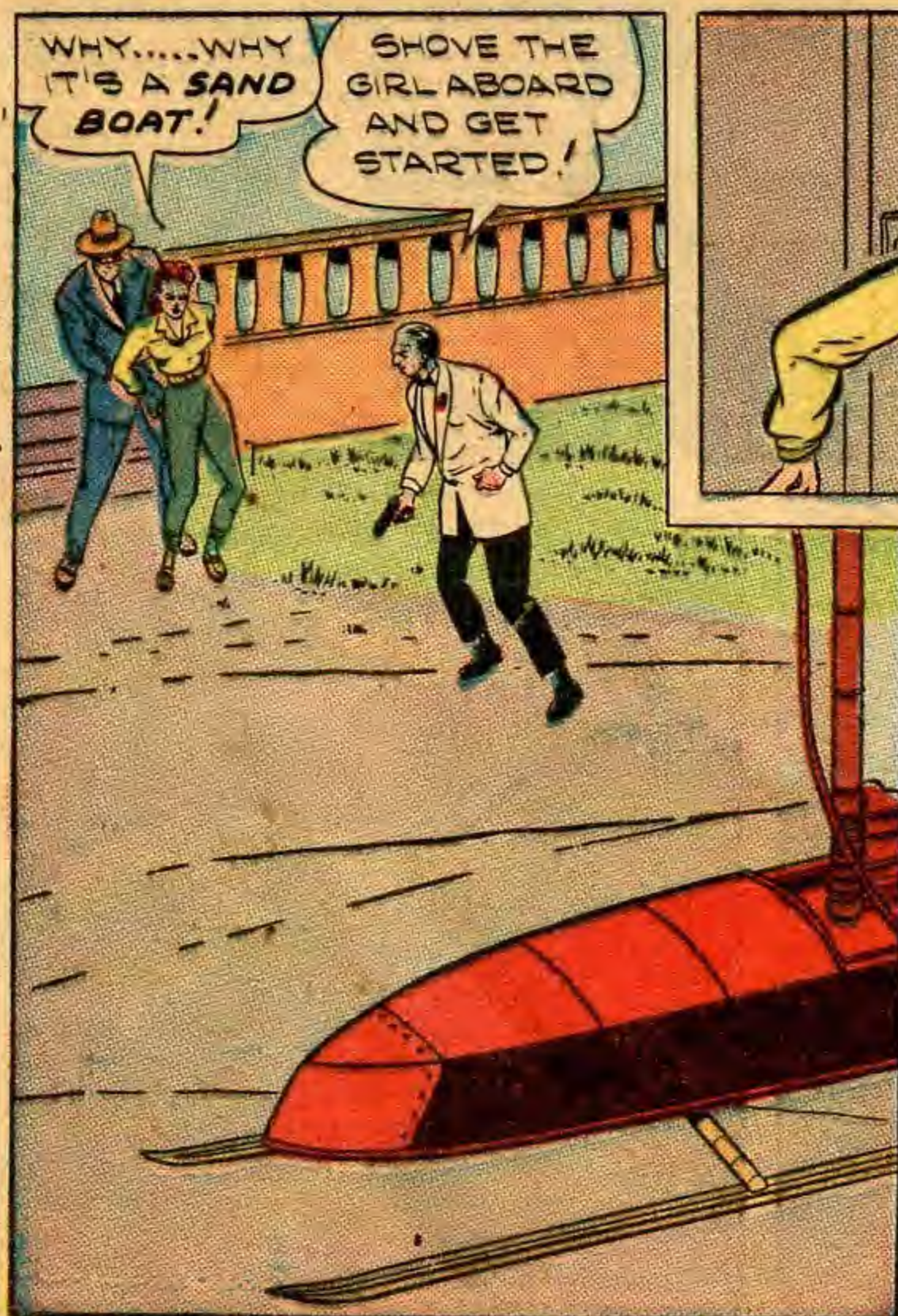
IT'S THE SHADOW... ONLY WE CAN'T SEE HIM!

GRAB THAT MONEY! I'LL GUESS WHERE THE SHADOW IS AND CLIP HIM!



YOU SPOKE TOO SOON, GALLION... AND DREW TOO LATE!





BUT THIS SAND-
BOAT WILL LEAVE
TRACKS!

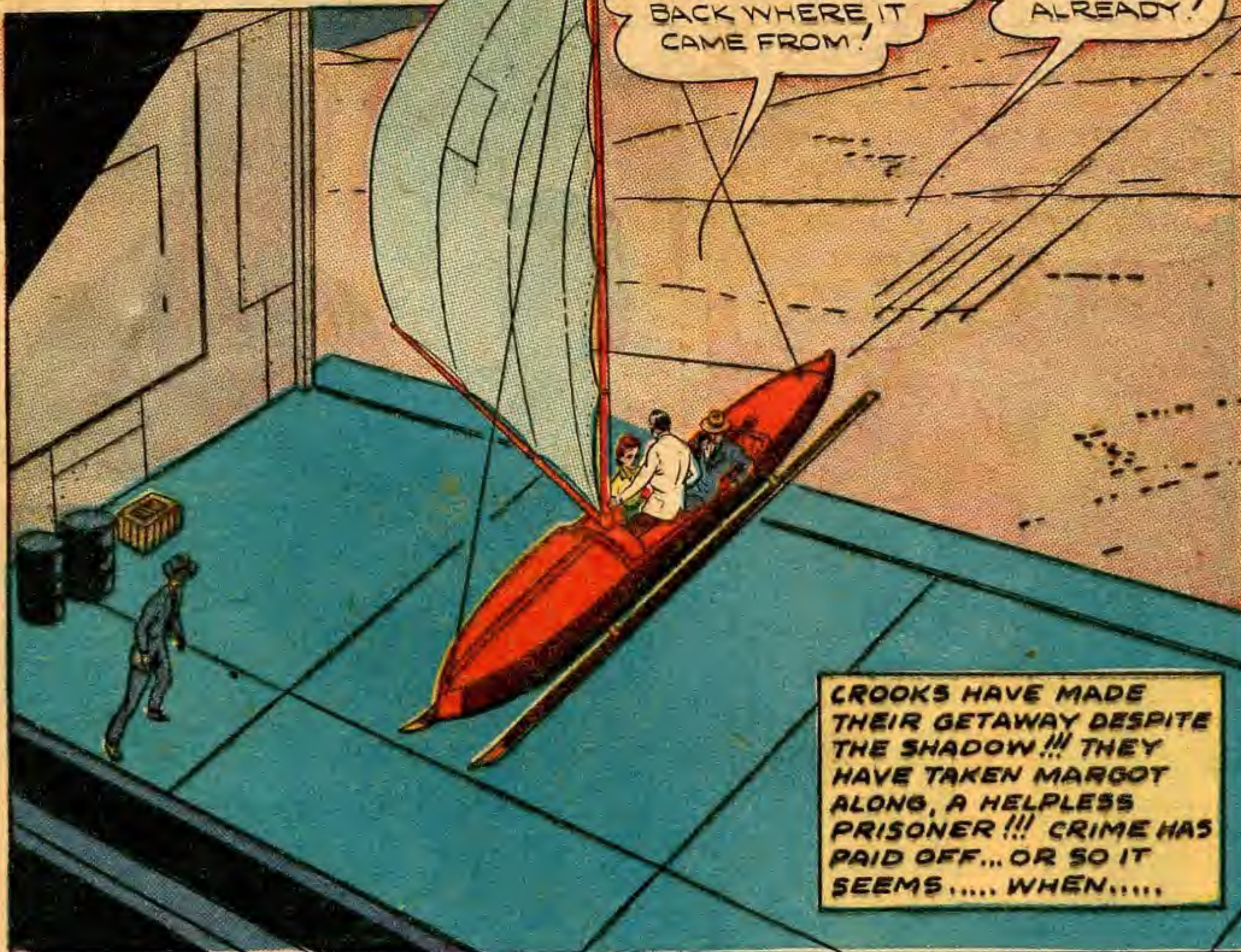
IT ALWAYS
DOES... BUT
THEY LAST
ABOUT **TEN**
SECONDS....

....AND THEN THE **SAME**
WIND THAT SPEEDS THIS
SAND-BOAT COVERS
THOSE TRACKS
WITH SAND!

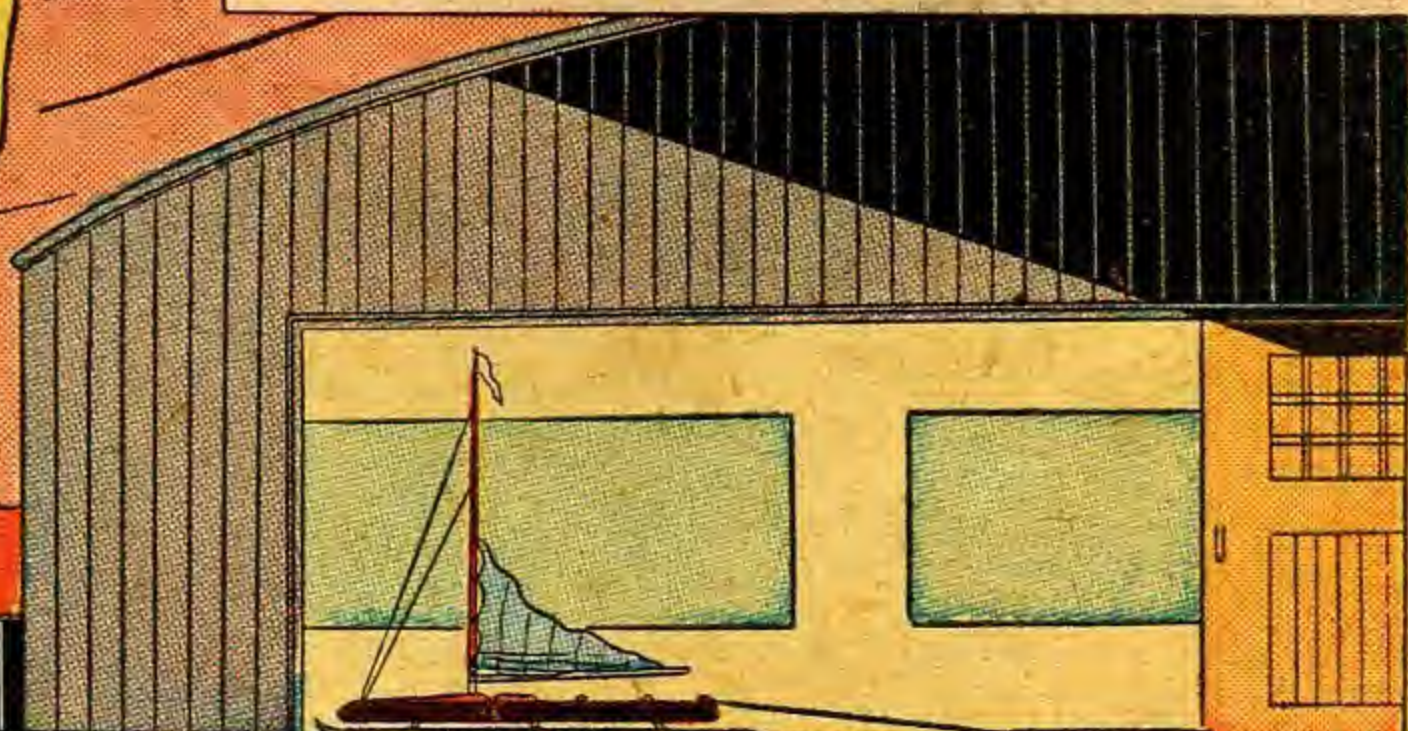


THAT'S WHY NOBODY EVER
GUESSED **WHERE** MY MEN
WENT....AND BEFORE
THEY EVEN BEGIN TO
LOOK FOR US, THE
SAND-BOAT WILL BE
BACK WHERE IT
CAME FROM!

IN THE
OLD
HANGER!
WHY, WE'RE
ACROSS
THE DESERT,
ALREADY!



**CROOKS HAVE MADE
THEIR GETAWAY DESPITE
THE SHADOW!!! THEY
HAVE TAKEN MARGOT
ALONG, A HELPLESS
PRISONER!!! CRIME HAS
PAID OFF... OR SO IT
SEEMS.... WHEN....**



GIRLS! IT'S THE WONDERFUL NEW BEAUTY TRIX WALLET

IT'S GENUINE LEATHER AND
IT'S GOT EVERYTHING



HOLDS
YOUR
MONEY,
PLUS!

HOLDS
YOUR
GLAMOUR
TOOLS

only
\$1.98
plus
Fed. Tax

Such a smart looking wallet . . . so stream lined . . . you'll hardly believe it holds so much and costs so little—only \$1.98! But it's all true! Tuck your real-leather BEAUTY TRIX into your pocket or clip on your belt—a snap will hold it tight. Then you're all set! Your precious valuables all safe! Your beauty all tip top! No wonder smart girls are crazy about BEAUTY TRIX. You'll love it!



FASTENS SMARTLY
ON YOUR BELT!
For CAREFREE,
CASUAL COMFORT



DOES EVERYTHING USEFUL

A simulated gold chain holds your keys, a leather lined compartment holds folding money and an "accor-dion-pleated" outside change purse holds your silver—lots of it! Snap-buttoned for safe, easy opening. And LOOK! See snug frame pocket for identity card. See 4 transparent celluloid windows to hold 8 more cards! Or 8 "snaps" of your honey! Or what you like!

DOES MOST EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL

So different from old timey wallets, new BEAUTY TRIX knows you're a modern glamour girl! Has mirror, comb and nail file, an elastic holder for your lipstick . . . fits any size, holds it tight! Feel easy and look lovely with BEAUTY TRIX. A thrilling buy!

LOOKS HANDSOME, TOO

Friends will think it costs twice as much! Of really genuine leather—amazing at this price—and so well made, well finished. IN STUNNING COLORS:—GERANIUM RED, FOREST GREEN, BROWN, BLACK.

INSPECT IT
10 DAYS
FREE!

Just mail coupon and on delivery pay postman only \$1.98 plus postage and fed. tax. Or, TO SAVE POSTAGE, enclose \$2.38 now with coupon. If you're not thrilled—if friends aren't impressed—just return BEAUTY TRIX in 10 days and get money back. Mail coupon NOW! ONLY \$1.98 plus fed. tax.

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Shadow Comics

CRIME DOES NOT PAY

MURDER INVISIBLE . . .

The members of the Inner Circle hunched forward in their seats with excitement. When Nick Carter had promised to tell them about one of his most baffling cases, he had meant it. Nick had told them of how he was on vacation at Cape Cod when a strange series of messages began to come over the telegraph from a lonesome lighthouse stuck way out on the raw coast.

The messages had contained terror! Nick was saying, "The last message the telegrapher got from the lighthouse said, 'I don't think I can last any longer . . . something's happening to me . . . I seem to feel the presence of someone near me . . . I . . .'" and that was the last word we got!"

Nick looked at the members. "I got the only doctor that the little town boasted and we made the rough trip out to the lighthouse in a dinky. I didn't enjoy it a bit!"

"When the doctor, the town sheriff and I got out of the dinky there was not a sign of life on the lonesome little area of land. The lighthouse stood straight up, proud and glistening.

"We looked about us, but there was literally nothing to see. Just sand, water . . . and the lighthouse. We knocked on the door. No answer. Luckily it wasn't locked. We went in. No one in sight.

"The spiral staircase led up to the top of the lighthouse where the beacon was. The doctor in the lead; we went up slowly. I was thinking, as we made our way up, of the messages from the lighthouse keeper. The desperate sentences about footsteps in the sand . . . footsteps made by no foot. . . .

"At the top of the spiral staircase we paused again. Ahead of us we could see the keeper. He had fallen from the chair in front of the telegrapher's key.

"The doctor gasped, 'He's . . . he's been

hurt . . .'" and ran to the keeper. The sheriff and I looked around the sparsely furnished room. It was like being in a gold fish bowl. Glass all about us. In the center the beacon, polished within an inch of its life, gleamed and glistened.

"The doctor said, 'I'm frightened!' I could see why when I joined the doctor at the keeper's side. From his back there projected a knife!

"The keeper had been stabbed to death . . . but I had noticed when we got out of the dinky that there were no footprints in the sand that surrounded the lighthouse . . . and there was no place in the lighthouse for a mouse to hide, let alone a man!

"Nevertheless the sheriff and I went over the whole place with a fine tooth comb. We found what I had expected . . . nothing. Not a sign of anyone. No suspicious signs of any kind. And yet, upstairs, above us, a man had been stabbed!

"The sheriff and I looked at each other when from above us we heard the doctor's voice calling. It was husky with panic!

"Believe me," Nick said, "the sheriff and I went up those winding stairs as if jet propelled! We found the doctor pointing out the glass enclosure. He was pointing down at the sand.

"He said, 'Do you see what I see?'"

"We did. There, down on the sand at the foot of the lighthouse we saw a footprint appear in the sand! But . . . there was no one there. The first print was followed by another and then another. They were going towards the water's edge near our dinky.

"The sheriff said, 'It must be an invisible man.' Then he stopped and said, 'But that's impossible.'

"Impossible or not those steps made their

way to the water's edge! Then nothing happened. There was no splash . . . nothing at all.

"I don't know how long we three stood there looking down at the line of footsteps that led to the water, but it was a long time!" Nick looked at the members. They were completely quiet. All of them were bemused. It seemed so incredible. Things like that couldn't happen.

Nick said, "Of course the killer had made a mistake. He had made the whole thing too impossible. If he had been contented with just the murder, I might have had trouble in catching him. But those footprints were too much. He had gilded the lily."

Beef said incredulously, "You mean a man did all that? But how could he? How could he get into the lighthouse without leaving any footprints? How could he do the stabbing? How did he leave the footprints in the sand? Was he really invisible?"

"Invisible in the sense that he was too close to be seen," Nick said, "which sounds paradoxical but isn't."

"However, first things first. I went downstairs from the lighthouse and out on the sand. There were four sets of footprints there. The three sets that the doctor, the sheriff and I had made going into the lighthouse and the fourth set that we had just watched being made by a non-existent set of feet. These went from the lighthouse to the water's edge.

"Above me I could see the sheriff and the doctor looking down at me. I called up, 'Sheriff, you'd better put the handcuffs on the doctor. He may go berserk when I begin to dig in the sand!'

The doctor? The members looked at each other in puzzlement. They knew that Nick always played fair. He gave them all the clues that he had therefore they should know why the doctor was the killer . . . but they didn't. They waited expectantly for Nick to clear things up.

He said, "There was a moment of stunned silence above me and then I saw the doctor swing a wild blow at the sheriff. The sheriff had no trouble in quelling him once he got

over his surprise. He was much heavier than the doctor."

"When I saw that the doctor was safely handcuffed I began to dig around the first footprint in the sand. As I had expected I found under the sand a wooden box that was roughly formed in the shape of a footprint. The top of it had fallen in on itself!

"I didn't bother digging up the other footprints. I knew that there had to be similar boxes under each of the footprints. I took the footshaped box up to the top of the tower with me."

Next to the beacon sat the doctor, hands cuffed, face drawn and old. He said brokenly.

"I was a fool. It would have fooled the sheriff. . . . I should have put it off when I found out that Nick Carter was in the neighborhood. But . . . I couldn't . . . the keeper knew about me . . . knew I was involved with doing plastic surgery on gangsters. . . .

"The sheriff said, 'I don't get it! What's that box for?'

"I showed him how the box had contained a chemical. Buried under the sand till ready, the chemical held the cover of the box up. When a release was kicked by the doctor the chemical dissolved. That let the lid of the box fall in on itself which in turn let sand pour into the box. From the surface the falling sand looked as if a foot were pressing into the sand.

"The sheriff broke in again and asked, 'But . . . the stabbing . . . ' there was only one answer to that. The doctor had given the man some kind of drug . . . this caused the hallucinations he had told us about on the telegraph . . . then finally it knocked him unconscious as the doctor knew it would.

"He was alive when we got there! That is the horrible part. I might have been able to save his life . . . but I couldn't know about the background at that point. . . ."

Beef broke in, "Gulp . . . you mean the doctor bent over him to pretend to examine him . . . and while he was doing that he stabbed the keeper?"

Nick nodded. "Yes. That was what I meant when I said he was too close to be seen!"

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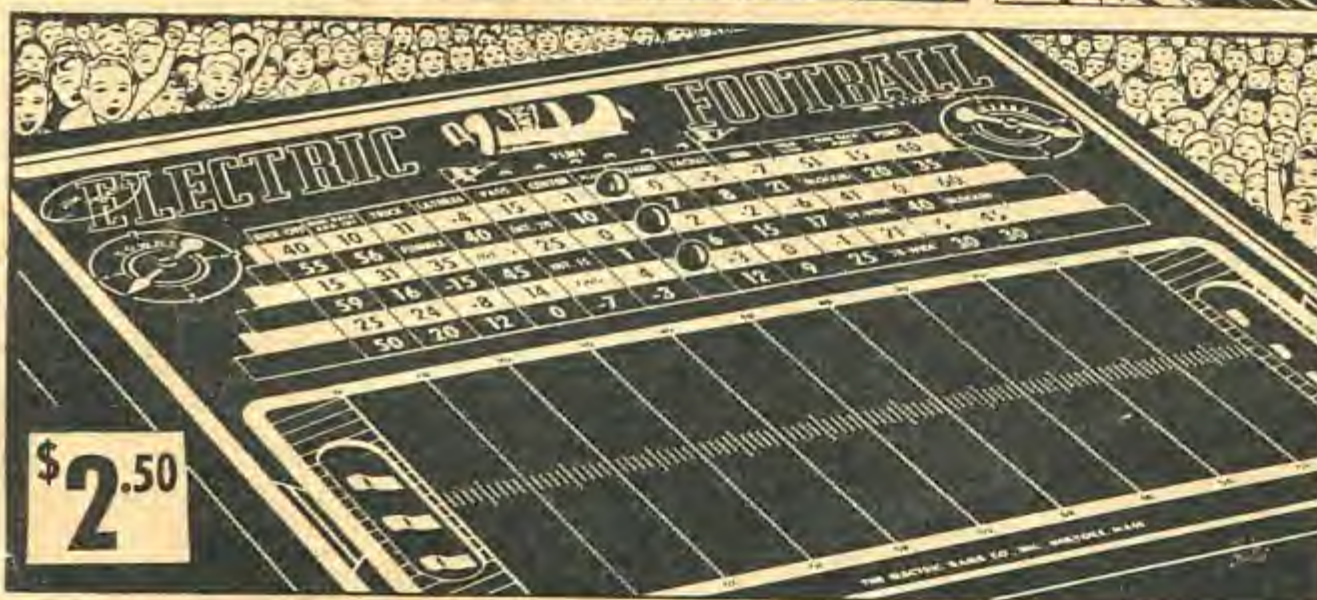
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